



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer-
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

At its meeting held January 9, 2007, the Board took the following action:

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Supervisor Antonovich made the following statement:

“Each year, more than 4,000 youth emancipate from California’s foster care system, of whom more than 1,300 emancipate from Los Angeles County. Just as youth who leave their families as young adults depend upon the continued support of their birth parents to meet their individualized needs, so do youth emancipating from foster care. These needs may include housing; educational or employment support; and/or specialized support as youth transition to the adult service systems designed to accommodate their higher-level needs.

“Under existing law, services are provided to foster youth until the age of 18, but may continue until age 19 if the youth meets specific requirements such as high school or equivalent vocational/technical program attendance or the pursuit of a high school equivalency certificate. However, research shows that most youth who emancipate without permanency or a connection to a committed adult do so without adequate resources to succeed. This places them at greater risk of unemployment, homelessness, incarceration, substance abuse/mental health issues and long-term dependence on public assistance.

“Last year, Assembly Bill 1983 (Bass) and Senate Bill 1289 (Cedillo), each of which called for additional services to emancipating teens beyond age 18, were introduced in the California Legislature. Neither was enacted into law due to concerns about the costs involved. These concerns are short-sighted. Cost benefit analyses demonstrate that failure to provide adequate services to emancipating youth ends up costing the public significantly more. Every effort should be made to ensure that each youth emancipating from our County’s foster care system is afforded the continued opportunities available to achieve success and become a fully contributing member of society.”

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Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Antonovich, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Board directed the Director of Children and Family Services, the Chief Probation Officer and the Chief Administrative Officer to work with the Los Angeles County State Legislative Delegation, the County Welfare Directors Association and the California Youth Connection, to sponsor much needed legislation in the 2007-08 State Legislative Session to provide enhanced services and financial support to emancipated foster youth between the ages of 18 and 21 years.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Chief Probation Officer
- Director of Children and Family Services
- Director of Public Social Services